(ग) क्या यह सच है कि गेहूं की प्रति हेक्टेयर उपज को बढ़ाने की भी काफी गुंजाइश है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस समय देश में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर गेहूं की औसत उत्पादन दर कितनी है; और

(ङ) देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रति हेक्टेयर अधिकतम और न्यूनतम उत्पादन दर कितनी-कितनी है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) और (ख) भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद ने गेहूं की खेती के लिए क्षेत्र बढ़ाने हेतु कोई खास सिफारिश नहीं की है। फिर भी, देश में गेहूं का अधिक उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सुधरी प्रौद्योगिकी अपनाकर गेहूं की प्रति-यूनिट उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने के सभी प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

(ग) और (घ) जी, हां। देशभर में किसानों के खेतों में किए गए गेहूं के प्रथम श्रेणी के प्रदर्शनों से जो परिणाम प्राप्त हुए हैं उनसे पता चला है कि सभी क्षेत्रों में गेहूं की प्रति हैक्टर पैदावार बढ़ाने की काफी संभावनाएं हैं। ऐसा अनुमान है कि नवीनतम किस्मों तथा अनुशासित फसल उत्पादन/सुरक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों का उपयोग करके मौजूदा राष्ट्रीय औसत पैदावार को करीब 2.5 टन प्रति हैक्टर से बढ़ाकर 3.5 टन प्रति हैक्टर किया जा सकता है।

(ङ) प्रथम पंक्ति के प्रदर्शनों के परिणामों से यह ज्ञात हुआ है कि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लिए अधिकतम प्राप्त किये जाने योग्य उपज निम्नलिखित है:-

	अधिकतम पैदावार (टन प्रति हैक्टर)	वर्तमान राष्ट्रीय औसत उपज (टन प्रति हैक्टर)
पंजाब, हरियाणा, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश	6.2	3.5
पूर्वी उ०प्र०, बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल तथा अन्य पूर्वी राज्य	5.5	2.4
मध्य प्रदेश तथा गुजरात	5.0	1.9
महाराष्ट्र तथा कर्नाटक	4.5	1.4

Functioning of Lalit Kala and Sangeet Natak Akademies

856. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the existing role of Government in the functioning of the Lalit Kala and Sangeet Natak Academies and in the setting up of the General Councils and Executive Boards of these bodies;

(b) whether with the present control of Government on these institutions, their functioning is non-partisan, free from self interest and career boosters for the celebrity artists; and

(c) the mechanism proposed to be devised by Government which is more transparent and boosts their functioning keeping with the time?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Lalit Kala and Sangeet Natak Akademi are autonomous bodies set up by the Government of India in accordance with their Memoranda of Assocation. The Government of India has its representatives in the General Council and Executive Board of these Academies.

(b) Akademies have been set up as national centre of excellence in the field of various arts and to promote and foster cultural contracts in the country as also with other countries, to promote research and to encourage exchange of ideas and enrichment of techniques between various regions and they have been working towards realisation of these objectives. To improve their functioning, Government appointed a high powered committee headed by Shri P.N. Hakser, which has submitted its report and recommendation for making their functioning better and result-oriented. One recommendation of the committee relate to restructuring of the General Council of Lalit Kala Akademi to make it non-partisan and free from self interest. The Government is in constant dialogue with Akademies on this issue.

(c) With implementation of Hakser committee recommendations, their functioning is expected to improve.

Revision of Non-formal Education programme

857. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-formal education programme in many parts of the

country is not really effective;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering revision of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Non-formal Education provides an alternatives channel for elementary education to children in the age group 6—14 years who have never enrolled in primary schools or have dropped out due to various socio-economic constraints. Under the scheme, which started in 1987, State Governments and Voluntary Agencies are given Central grants for running Non-formal Education (NFE) centres in a prescribed ratio. Although the focus of the programme is on the educationally backward States, the scheme also covers urban slums, hilly, tribal and desert areas in other States. The programme is, at present, in operation in 21 States/UTs. Currently about 70 lakh children are enrolled in approximately 2.80 lakh NFE centres. A majority of beneficiaries are girls and members of underprivileged sections of society.

The 8th Plan envisaged that NFE will be developed as a complementary system to the formal elementary education system. It stressed the importance of making necessary investments for qualitative improvement of NFE and the need for greater efficiency in its operationalisation. A provision of Rs. 646.69 crores has been made for the NFE programme in the 8th Plan. Of this, Rs. 541.52 crores has so far been made available to State Governments and voluntary agencies.

Based on past experience gained and the problems faced in its implementation, the scheme was last reviewed in 1993. The following were the major modifications effected in the scheme as a result of the review:

(i) The Central share of grant to State Governments for co-educational centres and administrative support has been increased from 50% to 60%.

(ii) The cost of a NFE project of 100 centres in the first year has been increased from Rs. 5.50 lakhs to Rs. 12.11 lakhs.

(iii) The number of girls centres in a project has been increased from 25% to 40%.

(iv) Remuneration of NFE Instructions and Supervisors has been suitably enhanced.

(v) Investment on teaching-learning materials, training and equipments have been raised.

The revised guidelines also envisages decentralisation of authority, flexibility and efforts for community participation in the management of the programme.

Further improvements in the scheme are contemplated in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Clearance of Railway Projects

858. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Secretaries has banned the Railways from clearing any fresh investment till all its projects in the pipeline are completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of projects already in the pipeline and the number of projects whose clearance has been withheld;

(d) whether the Railway Board has been directed to first consult P.M.O. in the matter of granting clearance to new projects;

(e) whether any review of on going projects has been ordered, if so, whether some projects are likely to be shelved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Committee of Secretaries has suggested that no new Railway projects should be taken up till some of the ongoing projects get completed so that the shelf of projects remain manageable.

(c) Clearance has not been withheld for any projects till now on this account.

(d) No, Sir.